

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: David E. Richardson
Serial No: Not yet assigned
Filed: Herewith
For: A METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR DYNAMICALLY DRILLING-
DOWN THROUGH A HEALTH MONITORING MAP TO DETERMINE
THE HEALTH STATUS AND CAUSE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS
ASSOCIATED WITH NETWORK OBJECTS OF A MANAGED
NETWORK ENVIRONMENT

Prior Application:
Examiner: Nguyen, T.
Art Unit: 2173

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the 6th day of August, 2001 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231,


Signature

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter this preliminary amendment prior to examination of the above-captioned application.

It is not believed that extension for time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in a document accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore, including fees for net addition of claims, are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08/2025.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the specification of the application of record with the substitute specification enclosed herewith as Attachment 1.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims 23-40:

- 1 23. A system configured to enable an administrator of a managed network to
2 categorize network objects into a hierarchical arrangement of group views, each group
3 view having an associated display of at least one member icon the selection of which
4 causes a display of one of either a group view represented by the selected icon when the
5 selected icon represents a group view, or one or more event messages that caused the
6 occurrence of a critical event associated with a network device or service when the
7 selected icon represents the associated network object.
- 1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein a health status of each network object is
2 identified by the display of a health status indicator.
- 1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the health status indicator comprises:
2 an alteration to the display of the icons representing the associated network object
3 and the group views that contain the associated network object.
- 1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein said alteration of said display includes a change
2 in one or more of the group consisting of color, shape, background of the icon.
- 1 27. The system of claim 23, wherein said network object comprises one or more of
2 the group consisting of network devices and network services.

1 28. The system of claim 23, wherein the network objects that are grouped in a group
2 view share at least one attribute value that defines the group view.

1 29. The system of claim 23, wherein the system is further configured to monitor one
2 or more health characteristics of each network object, wherein said one or more health
3 characteristics determine a health status of each network object represented by the health
4 status indicator.

1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein health characteristics for each network object of
2 a group view are stored in a health characteristic configuration file associated with each
3 group view .

1 31. The system of claim 30, wherein health characteristics for each network object are
2 determined by comparing performance data of the health characteristic to a predetermined
3 threshold of the health characteristic, and then, if the performance data of the health
4 characteristic violates the predetermined threshold of the health characteristic, causing the
5 health status indicator of the health characteristic to indicate a poor health condition of the
6 health characteristic.

1 32. In a managed network environment a method for allowing a user to determine the
2 underlying cause of a poor health status of a network object which is one of a plurality of
3 network objects categorized into a hierarchical arrangement of groups, each group having
4 an associated display one or more member icons each representing the membership
5 groups or network objects, the method comprising the steps of:

- 6 a) displaying an indicator of the health status of a network object, wherein
7 the indicator is displayed in association with a currently-displayed icon representing the
8 network object and any currently-displayed group view container icons representing
9 groups containing the network object;
- 10 b) receiving a user interface command indicating the user has selected one of
11 the currently-displayed icons; and
- 12 c) displaying, in response to said user interface command, either the
13 associated group view if the selected icon was a group view container icon or health

14 status information pertaining to the associated network object if the selected icon was a
15 network object icon.

1 33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of:

2 d) repeating steps b) and c) until the health status information pertaining to an
3 associated network object is displayed.

1 34. The method of claim 32, wherein step a) comprises the steps of:

2 1) defining one or more health characteristics for each network object, each
3 health characteristic contributing to a health status of the network object;

4 2) monitoring the one or more health characteristics for each network object;

5 3) comparing a performance data of the health characteristic to a

6 predetermined threshold of the health characteristic; and

7 4) when the performance data of the health characteristic violates a

8 predetermined threshold established for that health characteristic, causing the health
9 status indicator for the network object to indicate a poor health condition.

1 35. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

2 storing the one or more health characteristics for each network object in a health
3 characteristic configuration file of a group view of the plurality of group views to which
4 the network object belongs;

1 36. The method of claim 32, wherein each group view is defined by a plurality of
2 attribute values.

1 37. The method of claim 34, wherein the attribute values are stored in an attribute
2 configuration file of each group view.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the user can dynamically change one or more
2 group views of the plurality of group views by changing one or more group view
3 attributes of the plurality of group view attributes.

1 39. The method of claim 34, wherein the one or more health indicators comprise one
2 or more of the group consisting of disk utilization, memory utilization, network
3 utilization, and processor utilization.

1 40. The method of claim 34, wherein the group view health status indicator is a color
2 of an icon of the group view.

REMARKS

1. This is the first Preliminary Amendment filed in this application. Claims 1-22 were originally presented for examination in the parent application 08/900,688. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1-22 have been canceled and new claims 23-40 have been added. Thus, by the foregoing Amendments, claims 23-42 are pending in the application.

Amendments to the Specification

2. The Specification has been amended to correct grammatical, typographical and other minor errors. Applicants submit herewith as Attachment 1 a substitute specification under 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(3).

3. The changes to the Specification are believed not to introduce new matter. Enclosed as Attachment 2 is a marked up version of the specification of record showing all changes made to the specification. Accordingly, the substitute specification is compliant with 37 C.F.R. §1.125(b).

4. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.125(c), the substitute specification is in clean form without markings as to amended material. Further, the paragraphs of the substitute specification are individually numbered with Arabic numerals so that any future amendment to the specification can be made by replacement paragraph in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1).

Amendments to the Claims

5. By the foregoing amendments, Applicants instructed that all pending claims (claims 1-22) be canceled and that newly added claims 23-40 be added. The newly added claims are presented above in clean form pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i).

Accordingly to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up version of the claims is not required for such newly added claims.

Listing of Attachments

6. The following documents, referenced above, are provided as attachments to this paper:

Attachment 1: Substitute Specification

Attachment 2: Marked Up Version of Specification Showing Changes Made

CONCLUSION

7. It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after entering this paper into the record, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No. 10990318-2
Dated: August 5, 2001